

010814Z Apr 02

2002HANOI00762 - UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTO9085

PAGE 01 HANOI 00762 010847Z  
ACTION EAP-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00  
FBIE-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 VCE-00  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 SS-00 TEST-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00  
DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /004W  
-----7D1E1A 010848Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6030  
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS HANOI 000762

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV, PRM (PAM LEWIS), DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREF PREL PHUM VM CB ETMIN HUMANR  
SUBJECT: HELPFUL GVN RESPONSE TO MONTAGNARD RESETTLEMENT:  
"THEY CAN CHOOSE RESETTLEMENT OR REPATRIATION"

¶1. (U) ACCORDING TO THE MFA SPOKESPERSON AND A VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY PRESS ARTICLE, MONTAGNARD "MIGRANTS" NOW IN CAMBODIA CAN "CHOOSE" RESETTLEMENT IN A THIRD COUNTRY OR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HANOI 00762 010847Z  
REPATRIATION. IN HER MARCH 31 STATEMENT, THE MFA SPOKESPERSON SAID THAT ANY "MIGRANTS" WHO WISH TO RESETTLE IN A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD BE "ASSISTED WITH THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES, FOLLOWING PREVIOUS PATTERNS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNHCR, VIETNAM AND OTHER RELATED COUNTRIES." THOSE WHO WANT TO REPATRIATE TO VIETNAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO DO SO UNDER A "COOPERATIVE PROCEDURE" BETWEEN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND THE UNHCR.

¶2. (U) THE MFA STATEMENT AND THE PRESS REPORTS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION US INVOLVEMENT. RATHER THE FOCUS WAS ON THE GVN AND RCG AGREEING TO GIVE THE "ILLEGAL MIGRANTS" A CHOICE AND THAT RESETTLEMENT OR REPATRIATION SHOULD BE DONE ON A HUMANITARIAN BASIS AND NOT BE POLITICIZED "OR USED AS A TOOL TO UNDERMINE THE INTERESTS AND SECURITY OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA."

¶3. (U) THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT HARSH CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS RESULTED IN SOME PEOPLE REPATRIATING ON THEIR OWN. THE STATEMENT ALSO REITERATED CRITICISM OF THE UNHCR FOR WITHDRAWING "UNILATERALLY" FROM THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

-----  
COMMENT  
-----

¶4. (SBU) THE GVN REACTION IS HELPFUL AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM THAT HAS DAMAGED VIETNAM'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE U.S. AND CAMBODIA. A FACE-SAVING MOVE, IT APPEARS THAT THE GVN IS PUTTING THE BEST LIGHT POSSIBLE ON A SITUATION WHERE ITS ABILITY TO AFFECT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HANOI 00762 010847Z  
THE OUTCOME TO ITS LIKING HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS ON THE GROUND.  
BURGHARDT

UNCLASSIFIED